

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF CHESHAM

Bush

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

for the year 1961

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

R E P O R T
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THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR 1961

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Chairman of the Council: Councillor F.O.Bell, O.B.E., B.A., J.P.

HEALTH AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chairman

Councillor A.H.J. Baines, M.A.

Councillor F.O.Bell, O.B.E., B.A., J.P.	Councillor Mrs. K.L. Harries
Councillor Mrs. F.K. Brandon, C.C.	Councillor Mrs. V.C. Mann
Councillor H.T. Clarke	Councillor W.T. Moulder, C.C., J.P.
Councillor R.S. Colwill	Councillor K.J. Reynolds
	Councillor S.J. Wills

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

F. Seymour, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Other Appointments: The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Amersham Rural District Council, and Beaconsfield Urban District Council.

Deputy Divisional School Medical Officer,
and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Chief Public Health Inspector

L.D. Saturley, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.Hsg.

Other Appointment: Housing Manager to
Chesham Urban District Council.

Additional Public Health Inspector

A.P. Wells, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Rodent Officer

A. Palmer.

Clerk

J.C. How.

Shorthand Typist

Mrs. V. Humphrey resigned 14.7.61

Mrs. V. Hammond appointed 10.7.61

Junior Clerk

P. Bailey resigned 19.11.61

Miss A. Sherwood appointed 21.11.61

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Tel: Chesham 8622

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
CHESHAM,
Bucks.

July 1962.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Chesham Urban District Council.

Dear Madam Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district for the year 1961.

The health of the district, as reflected by the vital statistics and notifications of infectious disease, has been satisfactory. The birth rate even when the comparability factor is applied is considerably higher than that for England and Wales and is once again the highest in the County.

It is a great pleasure to record my appreciation of the co-operation and help given by the Public Health Inspectors and other members of the Public Health Department throughout the year, and in the preparation of this report.

Close and friendly relations have been maintained between the Department and all other branches of the Health and Welfare Services.


Comments are given in each section amplifying those matters considered to be of particular importance.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

F. SEYMOUR

Medical Officer of Health



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SECTION IGENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS(1) GENERAL STATISTICS

Population, Census 1951	11,433
Population, Census 1961	16,236
Population (estimated mid-year 1961)	16,550
Area (acres of District)	3,489
Number of inhabited dwellings	
(per Valuation List 31.12.61)	5,456
Rateable Value of Area (31.12.61)	£238,267
Product of Penny Rate, 1961/62 (probable)	£970

Comparative Statistics - 1934 to 1960

	YEAR		
	1934	1960	1961
Population	10,240	15,010	16,550
Rateable Value	£56,463	£228,106	£238,267
Product of Penny Rate	£212	£906	£970
Number of inhabited dwellings	3,084	5,287	5,456

(2) VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	223	215	438
Illegitimate	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>
All	<u>228</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>453</u>

* Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population 27.4
 + Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population
 (Comparability factor 0.91) 24.9

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total births 3.3

<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	6	3	9
<u>Total Live and Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	234	228	462

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births 19.5

Infant Deaths

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
3	3	6

Infant Mortality Rates

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births	13.2
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	13.7
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate Live births	0.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks) per 1,000 total live births	6.6
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live births	4.4
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	23.8

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Maternal deaths	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	0.0

Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	82	79	161
Death Rate per 1,000 population			9.7
+ Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability factor 1.15)			11.2

+ NOTE:

The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

* NOTE:

The birth rate is again the highest of any district in the County.

Causes of Death

As will be seen from the following table the two principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation which caused approximately 44% of the deaths, and cancer which caused approximately 25%.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	4	5
3. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	1	13
4. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5	5
5. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
6. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	10	17
7. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
8. Diabetes	-	1	1
9. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	8	15
10. Coronary disease, angina	16	12	28
11. Hypertension with heart disease	3	4	7
12. Other heart disease	6	8	14
13. Other circulatory disease	3	4	7
14. Influenza	-	1	1
15. Pneumonia	13	5	18
16. Bronchitis	4	3	7
17. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
18. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
19. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
20. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
21. Congenital malformations	3	2	5
22. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	6	7
23. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
24. All other accidents	3	3	6
25. Suicide	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	82	79	161
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Lung Cancer

The rise in deaths from six in 1960 to thirteen in 1961 whilst of no great statistical significance due to the small numbers involved, serves to remind us of the tragedies associated with what is to a large extent a preventable disease.

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1961

District	Popu- lation Census 1961	Reg.Gen. Estimated Population Mid-1961	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live and Still-Births
<u>URBAN</u>								
Aylesbury	27,891	27,040	20.2 (545)	9.0 (244)	- (-)	11.0 (6)	9.2 (5)	- (-)
Beaconsfield	10,019	10,070	17.1 (172)	10.5 (106)	- (-)	17.4 (3)	17.4 (3)	- (-)
Bletchley	17,093	16,870	21.9 (369)	8.2 (138)	- (-)	21.7 (8)	16.3 (6)	- (-)
Buckingham	4,377	4,360	18.8 (82)	12.2 (53)	- (-)	24.4 (2)	24.4 (2)	- (-)
Chesham	16,236	16,550	27.4 (453)	9.7 (161)	- (-)	13.2 (6)	6.6 (3)	- (-)
Eton	3,901	5,430	13.8 (75)	6.4 (35)	- (-)	40.0 (3)	26.7 (2)	- (-)
High Wycombe	50,301	51,150	19.5 (997)	8.5 (435)	0.020 (1)	15.0 (15)	10.0 (10)	- (-)
Linslade	4,127	4,130	19.1 (79)	9.0 (37)	- (-)	50.6 (4)	50.6 (4)	- (-)
Marlow	8,704	8,740	20.0 (175)	10.1 (88)	0.114 (1)	17.1 (3)	17.1 (3)	- (-)
Newport Pagnell	4,722	4,670	15.2 (71)	18.4 (86)	- (-)	14.1 (1)	14.1 (1)	- (-)
Slough	80,503	80,690	19.8 (1,597)	7.9 (639)	0.074 (6)	23.8 (38)	18.2 (29)	0.62 (1)
Wolverton	13,116	13,040	13.8 (180)	14.6 (191)	- (-)	11.1 (2)	5.6 (1)	- (-)
TOTAL URBAN	240,990	242,740	19.8 (4,795)	9.1 (2,213)	0.033 (8)	19.0 (91)	14.4 (69)	0.21 (1)
<u>RURAL</u>								
Amersham	56,565	55,520	17.4 (965)	8.8 (487)	0.036 (2)	12.4 (12)	11.4 (11)	- (-)
Aylesbury	31,331	33,840	18.9 (638)	11.5 (389)	0.030 (1)	18.8 (12)	12.5 (8)	- (-)
Buckingham	8,490	9,420	14.9 (140)	12.1 (114)	- (-)	57.1 (8)	50.0 (7)	- (-)
Eton	66,914	66,840	17.3 (1,157)	7.9 (528)	0.030 (2)	19.0 (22)	14.7 (17)	- (-)
Newport Pagnell	14,038	14,040	15.9 (223)	14.3 (201)	- (-)	22.4 (5)	17.9 (4)	- (-)
Wing	9,096	9,000	17.0 (153)	12.0 (108)	0.111 (1)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Winslow	7,928	7,980	14.5 (116)	14.7 (117)	- (-)	25.9 (3)	17.2 (2)	- (-)
Wycombe	50,831	52,020	18.2 (946)	8.6 (446)	0.058 (3)	12.7 (12)	10.6 (10)	- (-)
TOTAL RURAL	245,193	248,660	17.4 (4,338)	9.6 (2,390)	0.036 (9)	17.1 (74)	13.6 (59)	- (-)
TOTAL COUNTY	486,183	491,400	18.6 (9,133)	9.4 (4,603)	0.035 (17)	18.1 (165)	14.0 (128)	0.11 (1)
ENGLAND AND WALES			17.4	12.0	0.072	21.4	15.5	0.33

NOTE: In view of the small numbers on which some of the rates quoted are based, the actual numbers are given in parentheses for the purpose of clearer comparison.

SECTION IIHEALTH SERVICES(1) HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Chesham Urban District is situated within the area of the High Wycombe & District Management Committee of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

Hospitals available for the District are as follows :-

Tuberculosis	- Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common
General	- Chesham Cottage Hospital
	- Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury
	- Amersham General Hospital
	- Tindal General Hospital, Aylesbury
	- Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury
	- War Memorial Hospital, High Wycombe
	- Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital
Infectious Diseases	- Aylesbury Isolation Hospital
Mental	- St. John's Hospital, Stone
Maternity	- The Stone Maternity Home, Chalfont St.Giles

(2) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratories situated at Oxford and Luton.

Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst for Southwark Borough Council.

(3) AMBULANCE SERVICE

This service is provided by the County Council, the Chesham Urban District being covered by the new sub-station at Amersham from 7.0 a.m. - 11.0 p.m. The main station at High Wycombe provides 24 hour cover to the whole of the area. The efficiency of the service is greatly increased by the use of two way radio telephone and in this way the service can be quickly reinforced during the day and the area effectively covered during the night.

(4) MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

This service is provided by the undermentioned nurses :-

		<u>Telephone No.</u>	
Miss M.E. Marston, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.S.	) Nurses Flats, Penn Avenue, Chesham.	Flat No.1	Chesham 8319
Miss P. Sigsworth, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.S.		Flat No.2	Chesham 8242
Mrs. R. Buckman, S.R.N., S.C.M.) (Area Relief Nurse, and also) assists in Chesham).		Flat No.3	Chesham 8351

(5) CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

		<u>Session</u>	<u>M.O. Attends</u>
Chesham	School Clinic Germain Street	1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Friday 2.0 p.m. Each month	2nd & 4th Friday Each month
Chesham Pond Park	Community Hall, Windsor Road	2nd & 4th Monday 2.0 p.m. Each month	2nd Monday Each month

(6) CHESHAM OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

The activities of the Committee received a considerable stimulus during the year with the acquisition of the Temperance Hall. This property was purchased by the Chesham Council and, after the completion of extensive alterations and repairs, the Hall was leased to the Old People's Welfare Committee at a nominal rent.

With funds generously provided from a number of local sources, including a house-to-house collection, the Committee undertook the provision of an excellent kitchen, and the redecoration, furnishing and rewiring of the Hall at a cost exceeding £1,000. 0. Od.

The Hall was officially opened on the 22nd January, 1961 by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the County, and since that time has been open daily between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., for the use of the elderly people of the town. Billiards, television and games are available and light refreshments are served. Members of the Committee staff the Hall during these sessions.

The provision of suitable kitchen furniture has enabled the Women's Voluntary Service, with the aid of voluntary workers, to improve and extend the "Meals on Wheels" service. It is also proposed to operate a Luncheon Club in the Hall shortly.

Chiropody and hairdressing sessions take place weekly, and the Hall is also used by the 'Darby & Joan' Club, the Old Age Pensioners Federation and a new club, the Wednesday Club, recently opened by the Committee.

Since the formation of the Committee in 1958, the hard work of many voluntary workers and the very generous support of local organisations and individuals has been successful in providing an increasing number of elderly people of the district with comfort, companionship and interests not previously available.

(7) FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

A clinic is held in the Out-Patient Department at Amersham Hospital every Thursday at 6.30 p.m., and on the first Tuesday each month at the same time. The clinic is closed the last two Thursdays in August and the Thursday following Christmas.

(8) MEDICAL COMFORTS DEPOT

The Medical Comforts Depot organised and run by the Chesham Nursing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade has again rendered valuable service to the sick not only in this area but throughout the county.

Close liaison is maintained with General Practitioners, Hospital and County Almoners, Health Visitors and District Nurse/Midwives. During the year the depot worked at increasing pressure, sending out 4,014 articles (3,150 in 1960) helping over 500 invalids and 308 (221 in 1960) maternity cases nursed at home.

The work of the depot has been well supported financially by individuals and organisations in the district.

SECTION IIINATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-1951Section 47

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the local authority may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place.

Section 50

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made.

It was not necessary to take any action under either of these Sections during the year.

SECTION IVPREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE(1) NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Apart from a large epidemic of Measles, there were no outbreaks of notifiable infectious diseases during the year.

DISEASE	Cases Notified	
	1961	1960
Measles	688	2
Whooping Cough	8	7
Tuberculosis	6	2

(2) IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION(a) Smallpox Vaccination

The percentage of infants who had been vaccinated against Smallpox by the age of twelve months was lower than in 1960 (75% compared with 86%). However, the unfortunate occurrence of cases of smallpox in the Country this year will have had one effect for the good - it will have reminded parents of the importance of protecting their children against this disease. One anticipates that there will be a considerable increase in the percentage vaccinated in 1962.

(b) Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation

Due to a change in the method of analysis of the immunisation figures, it is not possible to give an estimate of the percentage of children in the District who were immunised during 1961. However, it will be possible next year to give a more accurate estimate than has previously been possible. The table below gives the numbers of children who were protected against these diseases.

Year of Birth:-	1961	1960	1959
No. immunised against Diphtheria	160	182	6
" " " Whooping Cough	191	170	15
" " " Tetanus	148	110	33

(c) Poliomyelitis

No separate figures for poliomyelitis vaccination are available for the district.

(d) Tuberculosis

B.C.G. vaccination at the age of 13 years is provided by the School Health Service. In the Amersham and Chesham Division it is pleasing to note that once again there was an excellent response from parents.

The B.C.G. vaccination is preceded by a tuberculin test which indicates whether the individual has in the past been infected with tuberculosis. Most of these infections are very mild and cause no definite symptoms. The number reacting to this test is a measure of the past exposure of these children to Tuberculosis, and in this context it is interesting to note the following figures :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tuberculin Positive</u>
1957	19.2 %
1958	14.1 %
1959	13.0 %
1960	10.5 %
1961	6.5 %

Those children who react strongly to this test are later seen by the County Chest Physician for further investigation.

SECTION VSANITARY INSPECTION(1) VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORSHousing Inspections:

1961

Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	...	...	62
Revisits made to houses under Public Health Acts ..	...	...	104
Number of houses inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	16
Revisits made to houses under Housing Acts...	...	...	88
Visits to houses under Rent Acts	...	...	-
Miscellaneous visits to houses...	...	...	27
Visits to houses in connection with Improvement Grants ..	...	...	220

Inspection of Food and Food Premises:

Visits to Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Visits to Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Visits to Grocers' Shops ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Visits to Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Visits to Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Visits to Bakehouses and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Visits to Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Infectious Disease, Rodent and Vermin Control:

Number of houses inspected for vermin .	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Revisits.	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Visits where Infectious Disease has occurred	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Visits in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	48

Other Visits:

Visits to Knacker's Yard ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Visits and inspections of Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Visits in connection with Water Supply.	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	420
Miscellaneous visits.	...	...	...	...	...	...	361
Visits & Observations re Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

(2) VERMINOUS PREMISES

As in previous years, numerous requests were made to the Public Health Department for help in dealing with insect pests. Suitable advice was given in every case and where necessary, treatments were carried out by the staff of the Department.

One infestation of bed bugs and one of cat fleas were treated during the year. In addition, 21 wasps' nests were destroyed.

(3) PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES BY INFORMAL ACTION

The following table shows the number of defects which have been dealt with by means of informal action during 1961:-

Defect	Number of Defects			
	Outstanding on 1.1.61	Reported in 1961	Remedied in 1961	Outstanding on 31.12.61
Dangerous Roofs	1	-	-	1
Dangerous condition of chimney stacks & brick walls	-	1	1	-
Leaking Roofs	7	8	12	3
Defective roof surface				
water drainage	9	11	9	11
Defective and dangerous ceilings	2	2	2	2
Defective doors and Windows	4	1	-	5
Defective boarded floors, stairs etc.	1	1	1	1
Defective fireplaces	2	-	-	2
Dampness	34	37	32	39
Defective sanitary accommodation	3	2	2	3
Defective soil drainage systems	1	10	8	3
Unsatisfactory yard paving and drainage	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory dustbins	1	-	1	-
Miscellaneous	1	2	-	3
Totals	66	75	68	73

(4) PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 - STATUTORY NOTICES

The following is a statement of the Statutory Notices served and complied with during the year:-

Section of Act.	Details	Number of Notices			
		Outstanding on 1.1.1961	Served	Complied with	Outstanding on 31.12.61
93	Abatement of nuisances	1	1	2	-

SECTION VISANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA(1) WATER SUPPLY(a) Public Water Supplies

Main water in the Chesham Urban District is supplied by the Council's Undertaking and the Undertaking of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company and amalgamated companies. This Council's undertaking supplies about 82 % of the total dwellings within the district in that part which may be conveniently described as the area of the Urban District prior to the extension of boundaries in 1934.

During the year under review the Undertakings have supplied main water that has been satisfactory both in regard to quantity and quality.

Treatment and Plumbo-Solvency of Water

The main supplies receive no treatment other than chlorination and the waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Sampling of Public Water Supplies

During the year samples have been taken from the piped water supplied by the Chesham Urban District Council and the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Eleven samples, six for bacteriological examination and five for chemical analysis, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory or Public Analyst. All the samples were reported to be of high chemical and bacteriological purity, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Chemical Analyses

The following are copies of the Analyst's Reports on the examination of samples from four different sources of mains water:-

<u>Reference No.</u>	<u>Sample collected from :</u>	<u>Water Undertaking :</u>			
M 42	Tap at Council Offices, Chesham.	Chesham U.D. Council.			
M 20	" " 20, Longfield Road, "	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company.			
M 28	" " 6, Rachels Way, "	- do - (Amersham Main)			
M 92	" " 5, Woodcroft Road, "	- do - (Berkhampstead Main)			
Sample Ref.No. :	<u>M.42</u>	<u>M.20</u>	<u>M.28</u>	<u>M.92</u>	
Appearance	All clear and colourless				
Reaction (pH)	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.1	
	Parts per million.				
Free Chlorine	Nil	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Total Solids	324	360	356	317	
Loss on Ignition	-	-	-	-	
Chlorine in Chlorides	18	23	17	15	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.012	Nil.	0.002	Nil.	
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.031	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Nitrate Nitrogen	5.4	3.2	3.5	3.8	
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98°F.)	0.18	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Hardness, Temporary	230	230	237	215	
Permanent	14	50	13	31	
Total	244	280	250	246	
Metals - Lead, Copper, Zinc	Not found				

Distribution of Main Supplies

The following table shows the number of dwellings and estimated population supplied from public water mains:-

	No. of Houses	No. of Caravans	Estimated Population
Internal piped supply	5,375	-	16,133
External supply	53	52	213

Adequate public water supplies were available for all parts of the District in which new dwellings were erected during the year.

(b) Private Well Supplies

Twenty-eight dwellings in the district are dependent upon a supply of water from wells, these being mostly deep bore wells. They are known to yield an adequate supply all the year round, and with one exception, the water is of high bacteriological quality. Sampling of the water is carried out from time to time and given below is a table showing the number of samples collected in 1961 together with the results of chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations carried out:-

SAMPLING OF WELL WATER SUPPLIES				
	Number of Samples	Result of Examination		
		Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
Chemical analysis	3	2	-	1
Bacteriological Examination	21	17	3	1

The sample giving the unsatisfactory chemical analysis was collected from a new bore well; a sample taken after the bore had been deepened was reported to be satisfactory.

It will be noted that three of the samples submitted for bacteriological examination were classified as 'suspicious'. Later samples from the same sources, however, were reported to be satisfactory.

The occupier of the house from which the unsatisfactory bacteriological sample was obtained was notified of the result and advised to boil all water from the well before use for drinking purposes.

2. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

The only Public Swimming Bath within the Urban District is controlled by the Council. The premises, situated on the Moor, comprise an open bath measuring 85' x 35' and from 3' to 5' in depth, with covered dressing accommodation and sanitary conveniences.

The newly installed mechanical filtration and chlorination plant was brought into use for the first time at the opening of the 1961 swimming season.

The bath is filled with unheated water from a well on the site, but the process of continuous filtration and chlorination by the 'break point' method ensures that it is attractive and safe for bathing at all times. The dosage of chlorine required for the water in use being variable, tests are made daily by the attendant to check that the concentration of chlorine is maintained at the correct level.

Two samples of water from the bath were examined bacteriologically and found to be satisfactory.

Further improvements to the bath and dressing accommodation are contemplated in the 1962/63 financial year.

Paddling Pool - Lowndes Park

Improvements to the paving around the pool have been carried out to prevent contamination of the water from the surround. The pool is filled from the town's mains and chlorinated and changed as necessary.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage of the town is on a separate system, the soil water sewer discharging to the Council's Sewage Disposal Plant in Latimer Road. This Sewage Disposal Works also receives soil water from the Chesham Bois area of the Amersham Rural District. The effluent resulting from the treatment of the sewage in sedimentation tanks, percolating filters and humus tanks is discharged to the River Chess.

In the early part of the year, the water table in the valley was extremely high and this considerably increased the infiltration of surface water into the sewerage system. This, together with the increase in population has at times severely taxed the capacity of the Sewage Works, making it difficult to maintain the necessary high standard of effluent.

About half-a-mile of the main sewer in the valley was inspected by means of a television camera, in order to ascertain the places where surface water was infiltrating the sewers. This investigation was very successful, and as a matter of urgency the two worst points of infiltration have been remedied. The quality of the effluent from the Sewage Works, as ascertained by chemical means, has been generally within the limits of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, the large amounts of surface water resulting from the infiltration providing a measure of dilution.

A report on the adequacy of the existing Sewage Disposal Works and recommendations for extensions to serve the future requirements, has been prepared by a firm of Consulting Engineers, and this report is now under consideration by the Council.

Parts of the District not served by public sewer

A survey carried out in 1953/54 showed that approximately 450 dwellings were situated in areas not served by a public sewer. This number has since increased with the building of further houses in Berkeley Avenue, Botley Road and other outlying parts of the town. Most of the dwellings drain to either a sealed cesspool or to a septic tank and soakaway into chalk.

Cesspools

Since 1954 sealed cesspools only have been permitted for new dwellings. These must have a capacity of not less than 4,000 gallons, a capacity which is adequate for the average household for at least 2 months. A typical cesspool in the Chesham district consists of a circular pit 13 feet deep below the level of the inlet, 8 feet in diameter, constructed in 9" brickwork and cement rendered internally with a concrete base and cover.

Cesspool emptying

The Council's machine emptied 268 cesspools during 1961, 246 being in the Urban District whilst the remainder were in adjoining areas.

(4) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The household refuse collected within the Urban District is disposed of by incineration at the Council's incinerator plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

Recently, there has been a marked increase in the quantity of refuse collected. Since the incinerator plant was first commissioned in 1948, the population of the district has increased about 50%, whereas the bulk quantity of household refuse has increased fourfold, this being mainly due to modern methods of packaging and the increased amount of newsprint, etc.

This increased quantity of refuse has caused the Council to give consideration to a scheme for transferring part of the daily load to a controlled tip at Gerrards Cross, in order to relieve the over-working of the incinerator plant.

Provision of Dustbins

Since 1950 the Council has used the powers given by Section 75 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, which provides that in lieu of requiring owners or occupiers of buildings to provide dustbins, the Local Authority may themselves undertake to provide and maintain such dustbins as may be necessary. An annual charge of 7/6d collected with the general rate, is charged for each dustbin.

In practice where arrangements for refuse storage are unsatisfactory, the owner of the premises is given an opportunity of providing a dustbin before a Council bin is delivered.

Provision of Dustbins by the Council

Number of dustbins provided in 1961	...	7
Number of dustbins provided in 1950/60	...	<u>203</u>
		210
Number of dustbins withdrawn in 1961	...	<u>11</u>
Total provided		<u>199</u>

(5) SLUM CLEARANCEClearance Areas

The demolition of the 27 houses in the two clearance areas in George Street and Alexander Street was completed by the Council's contractors early in 1961. The Council have asked the County Architect to prepare a scheme of redevelopment of this site.

During the year the Council completed the acquisition of the four houses in Clearance Area No. 3 in Waterside, together with three adjoining houses. The demolition of these properties is planned for early 1962, and plans for the erection of ten flats and six garages on the site have been approved.

The rehousing of persons occupying the houses in Clearance Area No. 4 was completed in the year, and the four houses in the area are awaiting demolition by the owner.

Negotiations with the owners for the purchase of the five houses in Clearance Area No. 5 in Whitehill have continued during the year. Accommodation for the rehousing of the persons to be displaced from this area has not yet become available.

Individual Unfit Houses

During the year action has been taken with respect to thirteen individual unfit houses, as a result of which nine demolition orders have been made, two houses have been closed for human habitation and an undertaking accepted in respect of one house. Procedure under the Housing Act was not completed for the remaining house at the end of the year.

(6) HOUSING REPAIRS

The number of houses at which repairs were carried out following informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts was 18. Formal action under the Public Health Act resulted in the repair of 1 other house. Action was in most cases the result of complaint made to the Public Health Department by the occupiers concerned.

No routine house-to-house inspection of dwelling houses has been carried out during the year.

(7) THE RENT ACT, 1957

Few members of the public sought information from the Council's Public Health Inspectors as to the procedure for securing the abatement of disrepair under the Act and no applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year.

(8) GRANTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD HOUSES

The schemes for the provision of grants for the improvement of old houses continued to attract moderate interest during the year. Applications received were not as numerous as might have been expected in a town where so many of the houses, although structurally sound, lack modern amenities. Leaflets explaining how Discretionary and Standard Grants may be obtained are available at the Council Offices and posters advertising this fact are displayed at three sites in the town. Upon request, the Public Health Inspectors visit intending applicants at the houses concerned to discuss their proposals for improvement and to give general guidance on the correct procedure to

follow. At the same time, an indication is given of the type of work likely to attract grant aid and of that which is considered to be ineligible. Information and advice is also given to architects and builders who are engaged to prepare improvement schemes.

The tables below show the number of applications received and approved, together with the total amount of grants made for the years 1954 - 1961 inclusive.

STANDARD GRANTS

		<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Number of applications received...	...	6	6	7
Number of applications approved...	...	6	5	6
Number of applications withdrawn..	...	-	1	1
Total grants payable (maximum) ...	...	£880	£625	£735
Number of schemes completed. ...	...	Nil	8	5

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

	1954-1959	1960	1961	Total
Number of Applications	96	18	19	133
Number of Grants approved	89	18	19	126
Total cost of approved improvements	£39,363	£7,859	£8,069	£55,291
Total amount of Grants approved	£17,420	£3,310	£3,612	£24,342
Number of schemes completed	75	12	21	108
Number of applications withdrawn after approval	3	-	1	4

The Public Health Inspectors have made 220 visits during the year in connection with improvement schemes advising applicants on proposals or inspecting works in progress.

(9) COUNCIL HOUSING IN CHESHAM

During 1961 the Council rehoused 147 families, including 57 exchanges of tenancy. Since 1946, Chesham Council have provided alternative housing accommodation for 1,863 families, and the following details of the number of new dwellings erected in the post-war period are of interest.

YEAR	HOUSE TYPES & NUMBER				ANNUAL COUNCIL TOTAL	HOUSES ERECTED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (including Housing Associations)
	Temporary Bungalows	Houses	Flats	O.A.P. Bung- alows		
1946	35	-	-	-	35	14
1947	-	14	-	-	14	17
1948	-	67	-	-	67	15
1949	-	87	28	-	115	24
1950	-	18	8	-	26	15
1951	-	33	8	8	49	11
1952	-	-	36	-	36	5
1953	-	22	12	5	39	31
1954	-	144	17	-	161	69
1955	-	34	13	27	74	123
1956	-	36	12	-	48	180
1957	-	28	24	-	52	167
1958	-	44	8	-	52	163
1959	-	-	28	-	28	244
1960	-	18	57	-	75	377
1961	-	42	8	-	50	245
TOTAL	35	587	259	40	921	1,700

At the close of the year there were 12 flats under construction by the Council and 144 dwellings under private construction.

Housing Needs

The waiting list of applicants for Council accommodation, which is restricted to persons who reside or work in the town, numbered 377 in December 1961. This number compares with 394 applicants in the previous year. The figures include 24 and 52 applications respectively from elderly persons or couples.

(10) HOUSING FOR SPECIAL CLASSES - ACCOMMODATION FOR ELDERLY PERSONS

Work is at present in progress in Deansway, Chesham on a comprehensive scheme of accommodation for elderly persons. This development is an important example of co-operation between the County Council as Welfare Authority and the District Council as Housing Authority.

By agreement between the two Councils, Mr. F.B. Pooley, F.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., F.R.I.C.S., the County Architect was invited to prepare a joint scheme of development comprising a County Residential Home, under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948 to accommodate 40 residents, together with all ancillary services, and 35 units of housing accommodation for elderly persons. The latter consist of 23 bungalows for single persons, 6 bungalows for married couples, and a further six flatlets in a communal block for rather more elderly persons or tenants with particular disabilities. In addition, a community room complete with kitchen facilities and a bungalow for a warden are to be provided.

It is expected that the County Home will be completed by the end of 1962, whilst the housing units will be available for letting early in 1963.

(11) CARAVAN SITES

One new Caravan Site Licence has been issued during the year making a total of five licences in operation. All sites are occupied by single caravans and the licences are for limited periods only. The conditions imposed by the Licences, although based on the model standards are suitably modified to take account of the temporary nature of the sites.

In September, the Council took proceedings under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 against an occupier of land at Fullers Hill, for unlawfully allowing two caravans to stand on the site. A fine of £20. 0. 0d., was imposed for this offence.

Council's Caravan Site - Trapps Lane

The work of extending and improving the Council's Caravan Site, Trapps Lane was completed in June 1961. The extended site, which accommodates 46 caravans, has been fully occupied since then.

The amenities provided at the site include an electricity supply point to each caravan, concrete standings and carriage way, a car park, fire and water points and a children's play-ground. In addition there is an ablution block containing a communal laundry with gas operated water heaters and wash boilers, together with baths, water closets and wash-hand basins.

The rent for each standing is 26s.6d., per week inclusive of all services, except electricity which is charged separately.

A comprehensive set of rules to secure the good management of the site forms part of the schedule to the licence granted to the occupiers of standings. A part-time warden is employed upon the site for general maintenance duties.

(12) RODENT CONTROL

Rodent Control activities have been maintained during the year, and the numbers of infestations reported and treatments carried out were comparable with those of previous years.

Premises and land occupied by the Council have been regularly surveyed and a number of rat infestations have been treated.

Destruction of Rats in Sewers

Since the introduction of the use of Warfarin in the treatment of rats in sewers, the Council's sewers have been kept practically free from rats. Test baiting of approximately 10% of the manholes on the public sewers is, however, still carried out annually and any infestations discovered are treated immediately.

Test baiting in 1961 revealed only one minor infestation.

A summary of action taken during the year is given below :-

Rodent Control during 1961

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Local Auth- crity	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cult- ural	All Other (including business)
I. <u>Inspections</u> Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
(a) Notification	1	98	4	27
(b) Survey under the Act	14	1115	40	494
(c) Reinspections	34	3	29	5
Total Inspections	49	1216	73	526
II. <u>Infestations</u> Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats	7	76	10	48
(b) Mice	-	11	1	11
Total Infestations	7	87	11	59
III. Total Treatments (rats & mice) Number of infested properties treated (including re-treatments)	11	93	6	36
IV. Number of 'Block' Control Schemes carried out	7			

(13) RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLINGS MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Two premises are registered under the Act, the activities carried on being upholstery work.

(14) PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No person has been licensed to keep a pet shop during the year.

(15) KNACKER'S YARD

The Knacker's Yard situated at Broadview Farm has continued to operate during the year and satisfactory conditions have been maintained. The licence granted by the Council excludes the slaughter of horses on the premises.

The carcasses of 33 horses killed at farms or stables were brought to the Yard during the year.

The Meat (Staining & Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960 have operated during the year. Subject to a few special exemptions these Regulations require all meat from a Knacker's Yard to be stained or sterilised before it leaves the premises. Much of the meat from the local Knacker's Yard is prepared for pets food, and this has been stained with a green dye before sale from a shop in the town.

(16) BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1957
Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers

Occupiers of 18 premises at which the business of hairdresser or barber is carried on are registered under Section 52 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957.

Byelaws as to hairdressers and barbers came into operation on the 1st October, 1958. These byelaws make provision for securing the cleanliness of premises, of equipment used and of persons working on the premises.

(17) FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1959

The Council are responsible for enforcing certain provisions of the Factories Acts relating to health and annexed to this report are tables giving particulars of the visits made to factories by Public Health Inspectors and the cases in which defects were found.

Reports were made to the Council concerning the failure of the occupiers of two factories to provide suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation at their premises in compliance with notices given by the Public Health Inspector. After the firms had been notified that they would be prosecuted for the offences, they commenced action to comply with the notices.

The principal industries in which local factories are engaged are indicated by the list below :-

Factories with Power

Woodware and Joinery	12
Motor-vehicle repairs	10
Brushware	7
Boot Manufacture and Repairs	4
Light Engineering	15
Clothing and Textiles	3
Printers	3
Food Manufacture and Packing	7
Upholstery	2
Aircraft Seats	3
Other Industries	29
	<u>95</u>

Building Operations	4
---------------------	---

Factories (No Mechanical Power)

Undertakers	1
Stone Mason	1
Packing	2
	<u>4</u>

Outworkers

Under Section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937 the occupier of every factory employing outworkers in certain specified classes of work must send to the District Council during the months of February and August of each year a list showing all the outworkers employed by him during the previous six months. A table showing the persons employed as outworkers in the specified trades in Chesham is annexed to the report.

(18) SHOPS ACT, 1950

The Council is responsible for the enforcement of certain provisions of the Shops Act, 1950 relating to sanitary conveniences, ventilation and temperature in shops. One notice requiring the provision of an additional water closet in a shop was outstanding at the end of the year.

S E C T I O N V I I

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(1) MILK

The Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Since 1949, the duties of Local Authorities have been concerned mainly with the enforcement of provisions relating to the distribution of milk and its handling and treatment at premises other than dairy farms. The provisions with regard to the infection of milk with diseases communicable to man are also the responsibility of Local Authorities.

Four milk distributors and one dairy are registered in the Urban District. There are a small number of milk producers within the area including one producer/retailer.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Regulations 18 - 20

No action to deal with infected supplies of milk was necessary during the period.

(2) ICE-CREAM

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations, 1959

No ice-cream is now manufactured in the district. Most of the ice-cream sold is of the pre-packed variety.

(3) NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES BY TYPES

General Grocery and Green Grocery Shops	...	...	52
Butchers' Shops	...	...	13
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	2
Fish Frying Premises	...	...	2
Bakers	...	...	2
Confectionery	...	...	13
Restaurants	...	...	8
Food manufacturing premises	...	...	4
Dairies	...	...	1
Factory and Shop Canteens	...	...	10
School Kitchens	...	...	5
School Dining Centres	...	...	7
Licensed Premises	...	...	24
Food Warehouses	...	...	2
Clubs and Public Halls	...	...	12
			<u>157</u>

Note: Premises at which more than one type of business is carried on are counted once only.

(4) REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Purpose for which Registered	Premises on Register 1960	Added to Register 1961	Removed from Register 1961	Total on Register 31.12.61	Visits in 1961
Sale and Storage of ice-cream	59	3	10	52	19
Manufacture of ice-cream	5	-	1	4	4
Manufacture of Preserved Food, etc.	19	2	3	18	14
Fish Frying	5	-	1	4	4
TOTALS	88	5	15+	78	41

+ In all 15 cases the removal of premises from the Register was made following changes in occupation, where new occupiers did not continue with the business for which registration was required.

(5) SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Since September 1959 no slaughtering has taken place in Chesham. The few local butchers wishing to buy meat "on the hoof" now make use of the slaughtering facilities available at a new privately-operated slaughterhouse which opened at Chalfont St. Giles during the year.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954

The following details are extracted from the Register of Slaughtermen:-

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1960	7
Applications for Licences considered during 1960	-
Applications for Renewals considered during 1960	6
Number of Slaughtermen removed from Register (no applications for renewal of licences)	1
Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1961	6

(6) FOOD HYGIENE

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Enforcement of the above Regulations has been in the hands of the Public Health Inspectors who made 160 visits to food shops and other places where food businesses are carried on.

Detailed surveys of five factory canteens which are subject to the Regulations were completed during the year. The attention of the operators was drawn to a number of serious infringements at two of the canteens.

Trading from food stalls at the Market Square has been confined to the sale of fruit and vegetables and conditions have continued to be satisfactory.

Certificates of Exemption

Certificates granting exemption from certain specified requirements of the Regulations have operated in respect of fifteen premises during the year, this number being two less than last year. The Certificates exempt the occupiers of a number of small shops from the regulation requiring the provision of separate sinks and hot water for the washing of food and equipment. In granting the Certificates the Council had regard to the nature of the food handled, mainly fruit, vegetables or confectionery, and the limited equipment used upon the premises.

(7) UNSOUND FOOD

A few complaints alleging the sale of unsound food have been investigated by the Public Health Inspectors but no formal action has been necessary. Reports of food stuffs containing extraneous material are passed to the Chief Inspector of the Bucks County Council for investigation.

The following amounts of unsound food were condemned and voluntarily surrendered to the Department by traders during the year:-

					<u>Weight</u>		
					<u>Tons</u>	<u>cwts</u>	<u>lbs</u>
Beef...	-	-	-	31
Pork	-	-	1	34
Bacon and Ham	-	-	2	28
Corned Beef..	-	-	-	84
Ox Tongues...	-	-	-	12
Pudding and Cake Mix	-	-	3	84
Butter.	-	-	-	3
Cheese.	-	-	-	2
Cooking Fat..	-	-	-	2
					-	8	56

Tinned Foods

30 Tins Meat
 3 Tins Fruit
 5 Tins Vegetables
 3 Tins Milk
 1 Tin Fish
 12 Jars Jam

Disposal of Condemned Foodstuffs

Condemned foodstuffs are destroyed by incineration at the Council's plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

F. SEYMOUR
 Medical Officer of Health
 L.D. SATURLEY
 Chief Public Health Inspector

ANNEX to Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1961
for the Urban District of Chesham in the County of Buckingham

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

PREMISES	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with no mechanical power)	4	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with mechanical power)	95	30	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) (e.g. Building Sites)	4	4	-	-
TOTAL	103	34	1	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	1	—	—	—

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1)(c) (2)	Section 110		Section 111		
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
(1)						
Wearing) Making apparel) etc., Cleaning and Washing	1	-	-	-	-	-
Curtain and furniture hangings	77	-	-	-	-	-
Making of Brushes	4	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	82	-	-	-	-	-